

Kousarnag Yatra begins amid tight security

The annual Kousarnag yatra commenced from the ancient Shiva temple at Reasi today, with police, Army, CRPF and other security agencies putting elaborate security arrangements in place for the safety of pilgrims.

The organisers estimated that the number of devotees could double from around 5,000 last year to nearly 10,000 this year. Pilgrims will travel by vehicles to Mahore area on Friday and undertake the trek on foot starting Saturday.

Searches continue in Billawar woods

Searches, which were launched by security forces yesterday in the dense Billawar woods of Kathua to hunt down suspected terrorists, continued today.

According to reports, suspected terrorists had late August 19 night gone to a house in a Billawar village. They knocked at the entry door but the family members did not respond.

Teacher suspended

The school education department has suspended government school teacher Khalid Hussain Sheikh, following his arrest in connection with a case registered against him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

According to an official order issued by the chief education officer (CEO), Kishtwar, Sheikh - a Grade II teacher posted at government middle school,

Woman killed as tanker hits scooty

A woman was killed and another injured seriously after their scooty was hit by an LPG tanker on the National Highway near Chamba Seri in Ramban district of Jammu today.

Officials said two women were going on a scooty when an LPG tanker hit them near Chamba Seri as a result of which they sustained critical injuries.

Both were shifted to the district hospital, Ramban, where one of them succumbed to her injuries, officials said.

The dead was identified

Military strike kills 14 at Buddhist Monastery

BANGKOK, AUG 21: An airstrike Friday by Myanmar's military on a Buddhist monastery in Myanmar's central Sagaing region killed 14 people who were taking part in a week-long meditation retreat.

The attack is the latest in a series of frequent and deadly aerial strikes targeting armed pro-democracy forces and ethnic armed groups in the country. The strikes often cause civilian casualties.

The attack occurred Friday at 9 a.m. in Svel Le Oh village in Myaung township, about 75 kilometers (45 miles) west of Mandalay, the country's second-largest

Sibal asks Shah if Modi as CM, Vajpayee as PM sang full version of Vande Mataram

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Triptii Dimri turns up the glamour in her Very Sexy era

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'Securing peace together' SFs alone can't defeat terrorism, society support needed: LG



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, AUG 21

Calling upon people to remain vigilant against the nefarious designs of anti-national elements, LG Manoj Sinha today said 'security forces alone cannot defeat terrorism and a whole-of-society approach is needed to eradicate the threat'.

He underscored the vital role of community solidarity in eliminating terrorism, substance abuse and corruption, while promoting economic development and a spiritual renaissance in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Security forces alone cannot defeat terrorism. Eradicating this threat demands a whole-of-society approach. United societal effort is required along with police and security agencies to dismantle the illicit financial and logistical webs of narco-terror networks," the LG said in his address after laying the foundation stone of Amriteshwar Sarovar At Dharpur under the 'Jan Sanchay Jan Bhagidari' initiative at Dharpur in Sunderbani area of Rajouri district of Jammu.

He urged people to remain vigilant against the nefarious designs of anti-national elements, report suspicious activities and completely isolate terror sympathisers.

Sinha said a concerted security and societal effort involving Army, security forces, police, local administration and residents had significantly degraded terrorism and transformed the security landscape of the region.

"It was once grimly predicted that the Tricolour would find no willing hands to carry it in Jammu & Kashmir. Today, it is held high with pride on countless resolute shoulders," he asserted.

During his visit, the LG also paid obeisance at Shri Amriteshwar Shiv temple, and prayed for peace, prosperity and well-being of one & all.

"India is going through a

'India has political stability' World sees it as bright spot of growth, hope: Modi

NEW DELHI, AUG 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Friday that reforms in all spheres are his government's commitment and that India continues to take several steps to ensure continued growth momentum.

"India has political stability and continuity in its policies, and the world sees the country as a bright spot of growth and hope," he said while addressing World Leaders Forum here.

"India continues to take several steps to ensure continued growth momentum. India is pushing ahead with reforms across sectors and reforms are our commitment," Modi said.

The prime minister said the world has many concerns regarding growth as resources are getting weaponised, but India is being seen as a bright spot of growth.



He said the NDA government had a clear roadmap for reforms, with a strong focus on governance.

"Our government is rewarding higher production with incentives," he said.

Modi alleged that it was the policy of the

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India not safe until its borders secured: Amit Shah

SILIGURI, AUG 21: Union Home Minister Amit Shah today said India and West Bengal cannot be safe unless the country's borders are secured, alleging that the previous Mamata Banerjee government had delayed the allocation of land needed for fencing along the India-Bangladesh border.

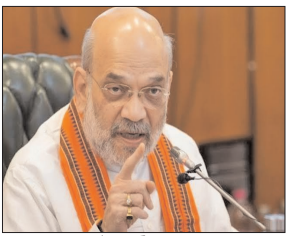
"1,129 acres of land had been sought since 2014 to strengthen border security but was provided only after the Suwendu Adhikari government came to power," he said while addressing a programme for groundbreaking and foundation stone laying ceremonies of various SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal) projects at its frontier headquarters in Siliguri.

Asserting that neither West Bengal nor India will be safe until its frontiers were secured, Shah on Friday lamented that despite repeated requests, previous chief minister Mamata Banerjee had not provided land required for fencing the India-Bangladesh border in the state.

Stating that no previous CMs of the state ever attended programmes of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) or the BSF, Shah congratulated Bengal CM Suwendu Adhikari for breaking the glass ceiling.

"My desperate pleas to Mamata Banerjee for land to set up border fences by the BSF fell on deaf ears. I had been asking for 1,129 acres of land to strengthen border security since 2014. We received the land parcel only after the Adhikari government was formed in the state," Shah said.

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BRICS meet India calls for stronger global tech collaboration

CHENNAI, AUG 21: Union Minister Jitendra Singh today said that emerging technologies were creating unprecedented opportunities for progress, and called for stronger international collaboration to ensure that innovation remains accessible, affordable, trusted and sustainable.

"Emerging technologies include advanced materials, biotechnology, photonics, geospatial technologies and high-performance computing," he said while delivering the inaugural address at 14th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting here.

Dr Singh said India had chosen 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability' as the theme of its BRICS Presidency in 2026. The theme reflected the shared conviction that science, technology and innovation must serve humanity by enhancing resilience, driving inclusive growth, promoting sustainable development and fostering equitable partnerships among nations.

He said the BRICS, with its vast population, scientific talent and growing research capabilities, is well placed to foster a cooperative, responsible and future-oriented innovation ecosystem.

He acknowledged the contribution of the STI Steering Committee, senior officials and various STI working groups in sustaining dialogue and translating it into practical cooperation and tangible outcomes, according to a Press Informa

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'J&K indivisible part of India' MEA dismisses Pak frustration over US envoy's remarks

NEW DELHI, AUG 21: Asserting that 'J&K is indivisible part of India', the Ministry of External Affairs today dismissed the Pak 'frustration' over US Ambassador Sergio Gor's remarks on Jammu & Kashmir being an "important part of India".

"India sees no reason to comment on Pakistan's frustration after Islamabad summoned a top US diplomat, following the US envoy's recent remarks on Jammu and Kashmir," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said while addressing the bi-weekly press briefing here.

"I will repeat, Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh are integral and indivisible parts of India. They were, they are, and they will remain so," he asserted.

"I see no reason to comment on Pakistan's frustration. This is what I have to say," he said in response to a question on Pakistan sparking a diplomatic protest over Gor's remarks.

Islamabad had on Wednesday summoned the US Charge d'Affaires and lodged a protest stating that his remarks regarding the status of Jammu and Kashmir were "factually incorrect" and contradict Washington's longstanding position on Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Thursday that the summoning of a US diplomat by Islamabad was an issue between Pakistan and the United States.

Sergio Gor had on Wednesday called Jammu and Kashmir an "important part of India" after meeting Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Srinagar during the first standalone visit by the US envoy to the Union Territory since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 and the Pakistan-backed terror attack in the valley's Pahalgam on April 22, 2025.

In the terror attack, that had taken place at Pahalgam's Baisaran meadow, 25 Hindu holidayers and a local were massacred by three Pak terrorists. In retaliation, India had in May carried out Operation Sindoor, targeting terror hubs in Pakistan and PoJK, dismantling terror infrastructure.



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'Entirely unconstitutional' Rajnath hits out at Cong over Vande Mataram row

NEW DELHI, AUG 21: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today launched a strong attack on the Congress over its decision to restrict the singing of Vande Mataram to its first two stanzas at party programmes, calling the move "entirely unconstitutional" and "reprehensible".

He said the Congress Working Committee's decision to adhere to its 1937 resolution on the National Song raised questions not only about its commitment to constitutional obligations but also about its patriotism.

The college ground witnessed a festive atmosphere as the pilgrims were greeted with warmth and traditional hospitality. A large number of locals gathered at the venue to welcome the pilgrims and showcase Poonch's rich tradition of communal harmony, hospitality.



"The Congress's formal refusal not only to honour Vande Mataram but to outright oppose it is extremely regrettable and, from a constitutional perspective, a very serious matter," Singh said.

He argued that Parliament, as the country's

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SC reduces legal practice to 1 yr for entry level judicial exam

NEW DELHI, AUG 21: The Supreme Court today modified its May 2025 verdict by reducing to one year the earlier mandatory requirement of three-year legal practice for law graduates for taking entry level judicial service examinations.

However, the selected candidates will have to undergo training at the judicial academy and a further one-year clerkship, a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices AG Masih and K Vinod Chandran said in a split decision of 2:1 while dismissing the review petition.

The bench said that candidates appearing in judicial exams notified between May 25, 2025 and March 31, 2027 are eligible regardless of prior experience.

It said such candidates, upon selection, will be appointed only as trainee judicial officers for one year and they would have to undergo a further period of one-year structured clerkship.

On May 20 last year, the top court had barred fresh law graduates from appearing in the entry-level judicial services examination, fixing a minimum three-year law practice criterion.

The top court held that the sudden restoration of the three-year practice rule without any transitional arrangement has created hardship for young lawyers and law graduates and hence, a limited intervention was warranted.

It said for candidates in exams to be notified after April 1, 2027, the new arrangement will be applicable.

The top court pronounced the verdict on a batch of review petitions challenging its May 2025 judgment, which mandated three years of legal practice for candidates seeking entry into the judicial service through direct recruitment as Civil Judges (Junior Division).

Women's promotion vital for inclusive growth, says Kavinder

CHANDIGARH, AUG 21: Stating that women's promotion was vital for inclusive growth & self-reliant India, Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta today called for creating an eco-system for promoting women-led entrepreneurship.

"Women are not merely beneficiaries of development but also important drivers of economic growth and nation-building," he said in his interaction with the participants at "Desi Cravings - Haryana Women Food Entrepreneurs Special", organised here.

The event was held in association with NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), showcasing the entrepreneurial journey and products of 50 selected women food entrepreneurs from Haryana, providing them an opportunity to connect with buyers, mentors and industry leaders.

The governor appreciated the participating women entrepreneurs for their creativity and determination, and said that such initiatives provide a meaningful platform to showcase women-led businesses and connect them with wider markets.



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